

## 235 DRUGGISTS HERE PROTEST AGAINST "DRY" DISTRICT BILL

Say They Aren't Taking Sides in Prohibition Fight, But Attack Proposed Restriction of Alcohol Sales.

Formal Communication and Many Individual Letters Sent to Legislators by Pharmacists of Washington.

Washington's 235 wholesale and retail druggists are sending protests to Congressmen and Senators against the Sheppard District prohibition bill which they assert would materially affect their business.

The druggists wish it distinctly understood that they are not taking sides in the prohibition fight, but they do protest against any legislation which would restrict the sale of grain, wood or denatured alcohol to the drug trade.

One of the sections of the Sheppard bill provides that only five wholesale drug firms shall be licensed to sell pure grain, wood or denatured alcohol in the District after November 1. It further provides that these five wholesalers shall not sell more than five gallons to any person at one time, and that the purchaser must have a permit from the District Commissioners to buy the alcohol. The price of this permit is fixed at 25 cents.

### MANY PROTESTS.

Under the provisions of this section retail druggists would be put on a plane with individuals who are prohibited from obtaining permits from the Commissioners and pay for them.

Believing this section would hamper their business, the retail druggists have sent a formal protest to Congressmen and Senators, and many individual letters have been written to the legislators.

The druggists state that they are opposed to any provision in the Sheppard bill which would restrict the sale of grain alcohol for pharmaceutical, scientific or mechanical purposes. The wholesale druggists protest against the provision requiring the payment of a \$25 license for the privilege of dispensing alcohol. They also object to the requirement of the Sheppard bill that they exact affidavits of purchasers of alcohol and keep an open record of all such sales. Their opposition is based solely on the restrictions and interference which would affect the drug trade.

The District of Columbia Retail Drug Association, of which Charles J. Fuhrman, president, and Charles J. Fuhrman, secretary, will hold a meeting at the College of Pharmacy Tuesday night. President Fuhrman will preside.

(Continued on Second Page.)

## U. S. Bluejackets Are 'Equal to Any'

Have Superiors in Neither Numbers Nor Efficiency, Declares Rear Admiral Blue.

In members and in efficiency, bluejackets of America's navy are equal or superior to those of England, Germany or Japan, according to Rear Admiral Blue, chief of the Navigation Bureau, before the House Naval Committee today.

"I would not fear the outcome of a conflict with any foreign power so far as the fleet's complement is concerned," said Admiral Blue, saying he referred merely to men and not ships. American dreadnaughts, he said, have fewer officers than the English, German, and Japanese and also fewer men, excepting Germany's. He urged increased training for bluejackets, having more men than the three other biggest navies, he said.

## Excited Patients Led From Blazing Hospital

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 4.—Twenty-five insane patients were led to safety early today when fire destroyed the two-story dormitory of the Municipal Hospital in sane and feeble-minded at Byberry Farms. The entire force of guards at the institution was required to restrain the shrieking and excited patients that there was no danger, even after fire from the blazing dormitory. The first to be led to safety in a defective building. The damage to the dormitory will not exceed \$10,000.

## Features of Wilson's Speechmaking Trip

Number of persons spoken to—One hundred and thirty thousand (estimated). Number of persons who saw Mr. and Mrs. Wilson—Probably 700,000. Number of miles traveled—About 4,000. Number of days away from Washington—Six. Biggest meeting—Kansas City (then in order named, St. Louis, Des Moines, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Chicago, Topeka and Pittsburgh). Number of places where stops were made—Twenty-five. States traversed—Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.

## WILSON RETURNS FROM WESTERN TRIP

Special Train Reaches Capital Before Two—President Goes to White House.

President Wilson returned to Washington at 1:17 o'clock this afternoon on the special train on which he made his Central-Western speechmaking trip, and was driven directly to the White House, arriving at 1:30 o'clock.

The President slept late this morning, not eating breakfast until nearly 10 o'clock. The special reached Baltimore shortly before 1 o'clock, but Mr. Wilson was resting from his arduous trip and did not even step out on the observation platform of his car.

Shaking hands all around with those who had accompanied him, the President remarked:

"It has been a very interesting trip."

That President Wilson's speechmaking program will be adopted by Congress before April 1 was freely predicted by those close to the President today.

## President's Defense Speeches to Be Printed As a House Document

President Wilson's speeches on preparedness during his Western tour will be printed as a House document, an order to this effect having been entered before the lower body adjourned late yesterday.

Under this arrangement there will be a limited number of the speeches for distribution by House members, and minority leaders. Mr. Mann suggested that certain Democrats ought to be required to read them.

Mr. Mann was evidently referring to the small navy contingent on the Democratic side, who are at odds with their party chief on preparedness.

## GEN. GOETHALS ASKS MILLIONS FOR CANAL

General Goethals, governor of the Canal Zone, today asked appropriation of \$12,000,000 for completing the Panama canal, and \$8,250,000 for further fortifications.

Prospects of clearing out slides and reopening the canal to general traffic were discussed before the House Appropriations Committee by General Goethals. While he would not set a definite date for probable reopening of the waterway, he said work was progressing rapidly, that it would not be opened until danger of other serious slides was largely averted, and that emergency appropriations were not needed.

Money for more schools were asked by Goethals. He also said two colliers costing \$1,300,000 each were needed. Goethals told of plans to spend \$500,000 on more seasonal batteries, \$4,911,000 for barracks to house twenty-one army companies, and \$240,000 for submarine mines at both entrances. So far the Government has spent only \$55,000 on mines, he said.

A projective factory to cost \$6,000,000 for the Panama Canal Zone, without regarding such supplies, was also urged.

## Proceedings to Widen Wisconsin Avenue

To increase the width of Wisconsin avenue from 60 to 120 feet, condemnation proceedings were instituted in the District Supreme Court today by the District Commissioners.

The petition in condemnation was filed by Assistant Corporation Counsel Smith. Wisconsin avenue runs from the Georgetown corporation limits has a width of 120 feet, and the proceedings were today commenced making the entire highway this width. The plans of the Commissioners call for the removal of the street car tracks, now along the east side of the thoroughfare, to the middle of the roadway.

On either side of the increased traffic will be provided a four-foot tree space, an eight-foot sidewalk, and eighteen feet of parking.

## Artillery Fighting Heavy In Region of Alsace

PARIS, Feb. 4.—Heavy artillery fighting particularly in Alsace, was reported in this afternoon by office communications. There today was no danger, even after the great German offensive forced by military critics has actually begun. Fighting on both sides were very active yesterday on the frontiers of the River Fecht valley and also at Altmann, northwest of Metz.

## HEATING PLANT SITE PROTESTS GIVEN HEARING

Member of Fine Arts Body and New York Engineer Before Senate Committee.

## TREASURY SUBMITS PLANS

Provision Made for Only Two Smokestacks—Site Declared Advantageous.

The proposed central power plant, at Fourteenth and Water streets, to furnish heat, light and power for Government buildings, was opposed by "Jas. Gilbert, of New York, a member of the Fine Arts Commission, and by Lewis B. Stillwell, a New York engineer, before the Senate Library Committee this morning; and defended by Byron R. Newton, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and by officials of the supervising architect's office, of the Treasury Department.

When members of the committee looked over the plans this morning, it was found provision was made for only two smokestacks, whereas it was generally supposed that they called for four stacks.

The hearing this morning was a continuation of a one begun yesterday afternoon before the Library Committee, which has charge of the artistic development of Washington.

The question of a power plant which it has been argued, would mar the beauty of the Mall and of many public buildings in the vicinity of the Monument, reached the Library Committee through a special resolution introduced in the Senate by Senator Newlands, following the receipt of telegrams from the American Institute of Architects, from the Washington Society of Fine Arts, and from various other organizations here and all over the country, saying the structure would be unsightly.

At the same time the question is under consideration by the joint conference committee on the urgent deficiency bill, which is being asked to include an amendment providing that the power plant be submitted to President Wilson. If the Library Committee decides that the plant would mar the beauty of Washington, it will go to the Senate direct, with a resolution urging that the construction be delayed until the Fine Arts Commission has passed upon a more suitable site.

A few days at least will be required to question this morning when Senator John Sharp Williams, chairman of the committee, said:

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## LAST PLEA MADE FOR MRS. MOHR

State's Arguments Will Be Made Today—Jury Will Hear Case Tomorrow.

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 4.—The final effort to save Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr from conviction on a charge of hiring three negroes to murder her husband, began today.

The closing argument of John J. Fitzgould began when court opened. State Attorney Rice will follow with the State's summing up. Each attorney is restricted to a two-hour limit in his closing remarks, which means the end may be reached today. Judge Sturges is expected to charge the jury tomorrow morning.

## SWOONS AS JUDGE GRANTS HER DIVORCE

Rosalie Cromelin Hardwick Faints When Court Announces Decision.

Giving way to the strain under which she has been during the trial of her suit for divorce from Hiram Hardwick, an insurance agent, Rosalie Cromelin Hardwick fainted today in Equity Court No. 1 upon Justice Anderson announcing that he would sign a decree giving her an absolute divorce.

Mrs. Hardwick, who has been accompanied in court by her two sisters, was removed to the ladies' retiring room, where restorative were applied. Later she was accompanied home by her sisters.

Mrs. Hardwick filed a suit for a limited divorce October 14, 1914, and later in an amended bill, asked for an absolute divorce. In answering the petition, Hardwick filed a cross bill, asking for an absolute divorce. The case has been vigorously fought before Justice Anderson.

Attorneys Eugene A. Jones, Shinn & Owen, and Guy H. Johnson appeared for the plaintiff, and Hardwick was represented by Attorneys W. Gwynn Gardner and G. F. Williams.

## FRENCH SHIP OFF CAPES TO WATCH APPAM

The Bouvet Just Outside Three-Mile Limit, Is Report Current at Norfolk Today.

## BERGE SHIELDS INTENTIONS

Arrangements Perfected for Transfer of Liner's Crew to New York Tonight.

NEWPORT NEWS, Feb. 4.—The French cruiser Bouvet is reported today to be just outside the three-mile limit off the Cape, waiting to pounce upon the British liner Appam, prize of the Germans. She makes any attempt to reach the open sea.

There was no indication today that Lieutenant Hans Borge, her commander, contemplates such a move.

Arrangements were perfected in Norfolk today to give the British crew of the Appam passage for New York tonight on the steamer Hamilton.

Late last night the transfer of her passengers was completed, and the 400 men and women comprising the passenger lists of the seven liners sunk by the Appam were started for New York via Norfolk.

Federal authorities here, however, continued their efforts to arrange the disposition of Lieutenant Borge and his German crew, and early today it was practically settled that, while Lieutenant Borge has as yet been undisturbed in his command of the craft, the Appam will immediately start on her way to the Federal Government and her crew will be transferred to the men from the Eitel Friedrich and the Kronprinz Wilhelm.

## Internment Expected.

Formal internment orders are expected from Washington today. The Appam was made snug and fast, with anchors at bow and stern, as if her captors planned a long stay.

All the Britons were free to go; so were the Germans—providing they take their prize along. Legally, the Germans were at liberty to leave port as the Britons, physically there were some difficulties. Chief of the latter was the Appam's engine room, where German stokers keep up a low fire, the Appam is German-controlled throughout.

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## Dominion Police Probe Blaze That Destroyed Parliament Buildings

Deny Bomb Theory—Premier Borden Escapes Flames in Rush From Structure.

## SIX PERSONS KNOWN DEAD

Loss Will Exceed \$4,000,000, According to Estimates From Dominion Capital.

OTTAWA, Feb. 4.—Investigation by the Dominion authorities of the mysterious fire that destroyed early this morning the \$4,000,000 Parliament buildings in which six persons are known to have lost their lives has already begun.

Colonel Sherwood, head of the Dominion police, scouts the theory that German sympathizers are responsible for the blaze or that a bomb explosion was its cause.

The fire broke out last night in the Commons reading room, swept rapidly through the corridors, and within three minutes had filled that wing of the building with an impenetrable volume of smoke. The flames spread rapidly, and by early morning the massive Gothic structure was a pile of ruins.

Six persons are known to be dead. Two of them, Madame Bray, wife of Dr. Bray, of Quebec, and Mrs. Morin, wife of Dr. Louis Morin, of Quebec, were guests of Madame Sevin, wife of the speaker, and were cut off in their apartments.

Mme. Sevin escaped by leaping into a fire net, while Hon. Martin Burrell, minister of agriculture, was severely burned about the face and hands when escaping from his office, which adjoins the Commons reading room.

Four men—R. Fanning, Alpha des Jardins, A. des Jardins, and a fourth man, as yet unidentified, were buried when a section of the eastern wall collapsed early today. Efforts were made to rescue them, but the fierceness of the fire rendered this impossible.

## Origin a Mystery.

The origin of the fire is a mystery. It may never be known. There were suspicious last night of incendiaries, possibly by a German agent but officials declare that as policemen were on guard at both doors of the room where the fire started, and others in the room itself, it would have been difficult for anyone deliberately to have set bombs or otherwise started the blaze without being detected.

Colonel Sherwood, head of the Dominion police, declared today that there man, as yet unidentified, were buried when a section of the eastern wall collapsed early today. Efforts were made to rescue them, but the fierceness of the fire rendered this impossible.

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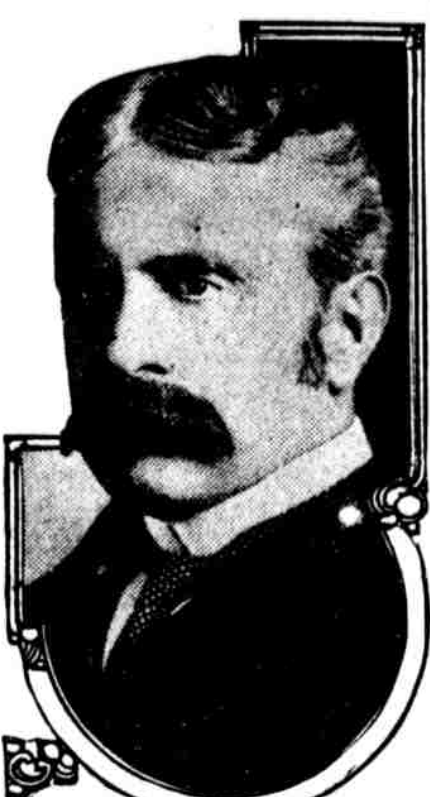
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R. L. BORDEN,  
Premier of Canada.

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## BERLIN WILL NOT DISAVOW DESTRUCTION OF LUSITANIA

Lansing Told German Language Contains No Such Word and None That Corresponds Exactly With Its Meaning.

Officials Declare That From Standpoint of American Government the Situation Is No Less Grave.

Germany cannot "disavow" the sinking of the Lusitania in express terms, and the United States Government has been so advised by Count von Bernstorff.

The reason which has been given to Secretary Lansing is that there is no such word as "disavow" in the German language, and none that corresponds exactly with its meaning.

While there is still hope in German circles that a settlement will be reached, it is declared that the problem for Berlin has been partly one of getting an expression which approaches that demanded by the United States.

NO LESS GRAVE.

Although the word "disavow" is contained in the English translation of Germany's note to the United States on the sinking of the steamer Arabic, it was learned today from the highest authority that the statement has never seen the German translation and does not know what German word was used.

On the eve of the arrival of the new memorandum from Berlin, officials let it be known today that from the standpoint of this Government the situation is "no less grave" than it was a week ago. Although realizing the limitations of language, the State Department let it be known today that it had not received from its original demand for disavowal.

President Wilson returned to Washington this afternoon to take charge of the situation. For a week he has been telling the people of the Middle West that it is impossible for him to predict what the morrow will bring forth to end the peaceful relations of the United States with the rest of the world. The question as to whether the new memorandum from Berlin is to effect a settlement with the German word will be squarely before him within the next twenty-four hours.

House Speeding Homeward.

The statement is still made in German quarters that a diplomatic break would mean war, sooner or later. The German press, while still hopeful of a settlement, declares that if a break comes "Germany will know how to meet her new foe as stoutly as she has met her old."

With indications appearing to be that the new instructions to Count Bernstorff will not fully meet the demands of the United States, Col. E. M. House, the President's personal emissary abroad, is speeding homeward. His coming is being awaited with eagerness in German quarters. There is a suggestion that if the present negotiations fail through, Colonel House will have with him, straight from "honeyland," the German ambassador, German foreign minister, suggestions which would save the situation.

It is thought that "Colonel House" in his dispatches to the President, last night, tried to do no precipitate action was taken until he has had opportunity to confer with the Chief Executive.

The German embassy is momentarily expecting the arrival of the new instructions. As soon as they reach here, Ambassador von Bernstorff will arrange for a conference with Secretary Lansing.

The demands of the United States for a disavowal behind which, the State Department insists, the United States is still standing firmly, were set forth in the formal notes of May 13 and July 2, 1915.

BERLIN (via Amsterdam), Feb. 4.—Unless America waives the demand for disavowal of the sinking